



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - February 6, 2003

- ***In the West***, cool, dry weather favors fieldwork, but areas east of the ***Cascades and Sierra Nevada*** continue to suffer from a variety of problems related to long-term precipitation deficits, including low reservoir levels and drought-damaged rangelands.
- ***On the Plains***, a shallow snow cover across the ***northern half of the region*** is helping to protect the winter wheat crop from a return to cold weather. Conditions remain mostly favorable for overwintering wheat on the ***southern Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, light snow is overspreading ***southern portions of the region***, but cold, dry weather prevails elsewhere. Although drought has developed across much of the ***Midwest*** during the cold season, agricultural impacts have been minimal.
- ***In the South***, snow is disrupting travel as far south as ***central Arkansas*** and ***northern Alabama***, while rain is boosting topsoil moisture reserves in the ***Gulf Coast region***.

Outlook: Widespread rain will accompany a developing winter storm into Friday along the ***Gulf Coast and Southern Atlantic States***, while snow will fall farther north across the ***central Plains, Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, and Mid-Atlantic States***. The storm will intensify along the ***Atlantic Coast*** during the weekend, bringing another round of heavy snow to portions of ***New England***. Elsewhere, periods of light snow will linger in the ***central and southern Rockies***, while dry, windy weather will prevail in the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 11-15 calls for below-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest, upper Midwest, and Great Lakes region***, while wetter-than-normal weather is forecast across the ***nation's southern tier***. Below-normal temperatures are expected in the ***West*** and from the ***Midwest into the Northeast***, while warmer-than-normal weather will be confined to the ***southern Plains***.

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